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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

SAYS EAST BERLIN TO BE INCORPORATED
INTO EAST GERMANY

EAST BERLIN MAYOR MAKES STATEMENT -- Stockholm, Dagens Nyheter, 3 Jan 51

Berlin, 2 January -- Fritz Ebert, East Berlin's mayor, at ceremonies on 2 January opening a new street, stated, "East Berlin shall now finally be incorporated into the East German state. All legal subtleties must be done away with now, so that Berlin, materially and ideologically, may become a part of the German Democratic Republic."

Ebert's statement is as interesting as it was unexpected. If, as one must assume, it is in harmony with the Soviet viewpoint, it means that the last remnant of Berlin's status as a four-power city will be given up. Heretofore, Berlin has theoretically been administered jointly by the four Occupying Powers. The Soviets withdrew from the Allied Control Commission in connection with the blockade crisis, and since that time the four-power administration has been illusory.

Laws valid for West Germany are not valid in West Berlin until they have been accepted by the city parliament; the same holds true for East German laws in East Berlin. The West Berliners have been demanding, since the establishment of the Bonn Republic, that the city be included as the 12th Land of West Germany, but the Western Allied commissioners have refused, because they have not been willing to give up the thought that one day Berlin may become a contact point for East-West cooperation. Furthermore, they have not wished to give the Soviets cause to protest that the Allies have broken the Potsdam Agreement.

By the same token, the Soviets have been somewhat uncertain about the position of East Berlin. For example, when East Germany held its general election on 15 October 1950, East Berlin did not participate. If Ebert's speech today was authorized by the Soviets, it must clearly signify that the USSR has given in to the desires of the East German Communists and agreed to the incorporation of East Berlin into East Germany. That this should take place just before the four-power conference is very peculiar, for otherwise the USSR has done everything to bring about a favorable atmosphere. -- Bo Järnberg

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STRIP OF LAND CEDED TO POLAND -- Zuerich, Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 22 Jan 51

A strip of land 6 kilometers wide on Usedom Island along the Stettin dike was ceded to Poland by the East German government a few days ago. The eastern part of the island had already been ceded to Poland as part of the area east of the Oder/Neisse line. The inhabitants of Friedrichstal, located on the ceded strip, had to leave their homes a few hours after the cession was made public.

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